



Will Williams

Director

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
20554

July 18, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The mission of the Economic Development Partnership, a non-profit organization, is to promote economic development within Aiken and Edgefield counties, both for existing businesses and for new members of the business community. The Partnership seeks to improve the climate for manufacturers and entrepreneurs through community and legislative action, and looks to cement Aiken's and Edgefield's reputations as a home for industry of all sectors.

We consider the widespread availability of cutting-edge broadband critical to a climate that is welcoming to businesses and conducive to economic success. Therefore, we support the pending merger of AT&T and T-Mobile and encourage you to approve it.

A significant portion of Aiken and Edgefield counties is rural, and additional broadband availability could greatly enhance economic development opportunities. It could also bolster the success of existing sectors, including the chemical and plastics industries, and support advances at the Savannah River Site, poised to become the leader for hydrogen research in the United States.

With the aid of a world-class wireless network and expanded mobile broadband access, these enterprises can depend upon fast, reliable Internet connection whenever it's needed. And they can use it to improve communications, enhance the efficiency of their operational models and better communicate their capabilities to prospective and current clients.

The AT&T and T-Mobile is a sure step toward expanded access, faster online speeds and reliable service for more South Carolina communities. Please ensure that this opportunity is made available to as many communities as possible.

Best regards,

Will Williams
Director, Economic Development Partnership

CC:

Senator Lindsey Graham

Senator Jim DeMint

Congressman Jeff Duncan

Congressman Joe Wilson

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn